

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed January 17, 2007, which has been reviewed and carefully considered. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

By means of the present amendment, claims 1-2 and 4-7 have been amended and the current Abstract has been deleted and substituted with the enclosed New Abstract for better conformance to U.S. practice, such as deleting reference designations typically used in European practice that are known to not limit the scope of the claims. Further amendments include beginning the dependent claims with "The" instead of "A". Claims 1-2 and 4-7 and the Abstract were not amended in order to address issues of patentability and Applicant respectfully reserves all rights under the Doctrine of Equivalents.

In the Office Action, the specification is objected to due to informalities. The noted informalities are corrected by the presented amendments to the specification. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that these objections to the specification

be withdrawn. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as allegedly indefinite. Without agreeing with the Examiner, and in the interest of advancing prosecution, claim 5 has been amended to remove the informalities noted by the Examiner. It is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 5 has been overcome and an indication as such is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 3 and 4 are objected to for being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but are indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that claims 3 and 4 contain allowable subject matter. In response, claim 3 has been cancelled without prejudice and claim 3 has been rewritten in independent form, including all the limitations of the base claim, as amended claim 1. Claim 4 has been rewritten in independent form, including all the limitations of the base claim, as amended claim 4. Furthermore, claim 6 has been amended to include allowable subject matter. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that claims 1, 4 and 6 be allowed and that claims 2, 5 and 7 be allowed based on their dependence on allowable claims 1, 4 and 6 as well as their own patentable

features.

Furthermore, claims 8 and 9 contain allowable subject matter similar as previously indicated allowable and, therefore, it is respectfully requested that claims 8 and 9 be allowed. It is further requested that claims 10 and 11 be allowed based on their dependence on allowable claims 8 and 9.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 4, 6, 8 and 9 are allowable, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2, 5, 7 and 10-11 should also be allowed based at least on their dependence from independent claim 1, 4, 6, 8 and 9.

In addition, Applicant denies any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicant reserves the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

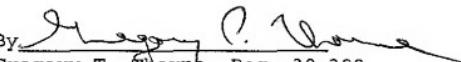
PATENT

Serial No. 10/552,803

Amendment in Reply to Office Action mailed on January 17, 2007

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Gregory T. Thorne, Reg. 39,398
Attorney for Applicant(s)
May 11, 2007

Enclosure: New Abstract

THORNE & HALAJIAN, LLP
Applied Technology Center
111 West Main Street
Bay Shore, NY 11706
Tel: (631) 665-5139
Fax: (631) 665-5101